

- 14 -

I Claim:

1. An eating utensil comprising
a handle,
a food-carrying platform carried by the handle
5 and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-carrying platform extending along an axis, and
at least one blunt projection comprising a
pliable material and extending radially from the bottom
surface.
- 10 2. An eating utensil as in claim 1
wherein the projection is convex dome-shaped.
3. An eating utensil as in claim 1
wherein the projection is elongated.
- 15 4. An eating utensil as in claim 3
wherein the projection is curvilinear.
5. An eating utensil as in claim 3
wherein the projection is linear.
6. An eating utensil as in claim 3
wherein the projection is elongated along the
20 axis of the food-carrying platform.
7. An eating utensil as in claim 3
wherein the projection is elongated traverse
the axis of the food-carrying platform.
8. An eating utensil as in claim 1
25 wherein the food-carrying platform has at
least one tine.
9. An eating utensil as in claim 1
wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a
concave bowl.
- 30 10. An eating utensil as in claim 1
wherein the projection is adapted to contact
the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral
tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over
the tongue.
- 35 11. An eating utensil comprising

- 15 -

- a handle,
a food-carrying platform carried by the handle
and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-
carrying platform extending along an axis, and
5 at least one elongated blunt projection
extending radially from the bottom surface and extending
transverse the axis of the food-carrying platform.
12. An eating utensil as in claim 11
wherein the projection is curvilinear.
- 10 13. An eating utensil as in claim 11
wherein the projection is linear.
14. An eating utensil as in claim 11
wherein the food-carrying platform has at
least one tine.
- 15 15. An eating utensil as in claim 11
wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a
concave bowl.
16. An eating utensil as in claim 11
wherein the projection is adapted to contact
20 the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral
tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over
the tongue.
17. An eating utensil comprising
a handle,
25 a food-carrying platform carried by the handle
and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-
carrying platform extending along an axis, and
at least at least one convex, dome-shaped
blunt extending radially from the bottom surface.
- 30 18. An eating utensil as in claim 17
wherein the food-carrying platform has at
least one tine.
19. An eating utensil as in claim 17
wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a
35 concave bowl.

20. An eating utensil as in claim 17
wherein the projection is adapted to contact
the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral
tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over
5 the tongue.

21. A method of providing oral sensory
stimulating utensil feeding comprising the steps of
providing an eating utensil having an axis,
the eating utensil having a handle and a food-carrying
10 platform carried by the handle, the food-carrying
platform having a top surface and a bottom surface and at
least one blunt projection comprising a pliable material
extending radially from the bottom surface,
placing food on the platform,
15 introducing the utensil into an individual's
mouth so that the projection contacts the individual's
tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation, and
advancing the utensil backward over the tongue
while maintaining contact between the projection and the
20 tongue to deliver the food.

22. A method of providing oral sensory
stimulating utensil feeding comprising the steps of
providing an eating utensil having an axis,
the eating utensil having a handle and a food-carrying
25 platform carried by the handle, the food-carrying
platform having a top surface and a bottom surface and at
least one elongated blunt projection extending radially
from the bottom surface,
placing food on the platform,
30 introducing the utensil into an individual's
mouth so that the projection contacts the individual's
tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation, and
advancing the utensil backward over the tongue
while maintaining contact between the projection and the
35 tongue to deliver the food.

- 17 -

23. A method of providing oral sensory
stimulating utensil feeding comprising the steps of
providing an eating utensil having an axis,
the eating utensil having a handle and a food-carrying
5 platform carried by the handle, the food-carrying
platform having a top surface and a bottom surface and at
least one convex, dome-shaped blunt projection extending
radially from the bottom surface,
placing food on the platform,
10 introducing the utensil into an individual's
mouth so that the projection contacts the individual's
tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation, and
advancing the utensil backward over the tongue
while maintaining contact between the projection and the
15 tongue to deliver the food.